



REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

2017 Ring Premiere reveals Brass Rat

Design features a MakeMIT logo

By Alex Delmore
STAFF REPORTER

Little could have inspired me and so many other sophomores to brave the freezing temperatures and inclement winds last Friday evening, save the highly anticipated premiere of the Class of 2017 Brass Rat. I arrived at Kresge Auditorium at 6:30 p.m., half an hour before the doors opened, to wait outside with my fellow '17s; the semi-organized line of sophomores soon began to curve around Kresge and extend toward the Z Center.

Sophomores arrived in droves: many represented their respective fraternities, sororities, or sports teams by coordinating outfits; others strolled in casually with friends. Attire ranged from semi-formal to casual.

When the doors opened, there were volunteers checking IDs to ensure that each of us were indeed members of the Class of 2017. Before entering the auditorium, we were each handed a raffle ticket.

Inside, my friends and I got seats toward the front. I noticed that most people were seated in relatively large groups that I identified as be-

ing from specific fraternities and dorms.

The projector screen behind the stage showed the countdown until the premiere started. It was at 26 minutes when I sat down. To entertain themselves during the wait, people stood in the aisles and in front of the stage to take group photos and selfies. Sophomores continued to file in for those next 26 minutes, and a few latecomers straggled in shortly after the premiere had started.

As the premiere was starting, I looked around the auditorium to behold what seemed like the vast majority of our class, united under one roof, which I knew to be a rare occurrence throughout our years at MIT.

Traditionally, members of the Ring Committees from previous years are invited to attend Ring Premiere, and would sit on the balcony in Kresge during the presentation. This year, however, the SAO, CAC, and Ring Committee jointly decided to close off balcony seating. In recent years, Ring Committees had been a disturbance, drinking alcohol.

Ring Premiere, Page 9

Two house managers leave MIT employment, interim managers chosen by administration

Next House house manager will not be returning after three-week leave of absence

By Drew Bent
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

MIT lost two dorm house managers this month and has begun the process of replacing them. A campus official said that housemasters, administrators, and students will be involved.

Random Hall's house manager, Julie Gagnon, said in an email last month that she was making a personal decision to leave MIT. Residents at Next House also learned through email that their house manager, Jason Doucette, would not be returning after a three-week leave of absence. Director of Housing Dan Roderick, who sent the email on Feb. 6, did not disclose the reasons for Doucette's departure in order to "protect the confidentiality of all parties concerned."

Gagnon's leave came after three and a half years at Random and 15 in total at MIT. Doucette had been employed at MIT for 7 years. House managers typically work at a single dorm and are responsible for overseeing both custodial maintenance and repairs. They work closely with the rest of the house team, which includes the housemaster and area director.

Looking back, students in Next

spoke favorably of their interactions with Doucette. "I was definitely really sad that he was not going to be here," said Staly Chin '15, who has lived in Next all four years he's been at MIT. "Given how long he's been here, he's definitely built up a relationship with a lot of our organizations."

Chin worked with Doucette on a variety dorm activities, includ-

Managers, Page 14

IN SHORT

Minor Completion forms are due Friday. Final-term seniors who turn in their forms late will be charged a \$50 fee.

The Red Cross will be holding a blood drive on MIT's campus every day next week. Those wishing to donate should report to La Sala de Puerto Rico between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tuesday or between 1 p.m. or 6 p.m. on other days.

MIT's European Career Fair will take place this Saturday in Johnson Athletic Center.

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.

MIT battles lawsuit

2011 suicide trial to continue in front of a jury

By Sanjana Srivastava
STAFF REPORTER

Sloan graduate student Han Nguyen committed suicide by throwing himself off the roof of Building E19 on June 2, 2009. Minutes earlier, Nguyen had gotten off the phone with Sloan professor Birger Wernerfelt. Wernerfelt had "read him the riot act" in regards to a presumptuous email Nguyen had sent to Trey Hedden, his summer research supervisor, according to court filings.

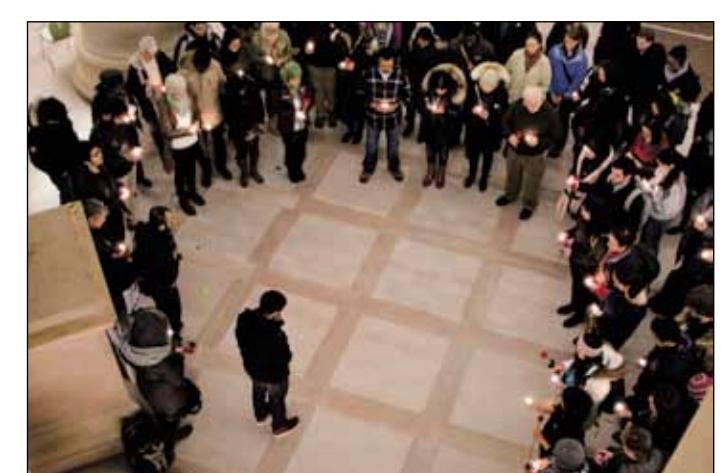
In 2011, Nguyen's father Dzung Nguyen filed a wrongful death lawsuit against MIT, Wernerfelt, and two others. According to Dzung Nguyen,

Wernerfelt's admonishment pushed Han Nguyen "quite literally over the edge."

Judge Bruce R. Henry ruled earlier this year that the trial will continue in front of a jury.

MIT and the other defendants tried unsuccessfully to have the case thrown out on a technicality in November 2014. They argued that because Han Nguyen had a summer research assistant position and wasn't taking classes as he did during the school year, he should be considered an employee and not a student. Since the three men being sued were all employees, the

Trial, Page 13



A vigil for the victims of the shooting in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, organized by the MIT Muslim Students Association, was held in Lobby 7 on Thursday.

BRASS RAT

Check out the 2017 design. **NEWS, p. 9**

SUDOKU

Puzzles to match the weather. **FUN, p. 5**

WEATHER

Time to move to Florida.

WEATHER, p. 2



HIPSTER VAMPIRES, CHECK

A review of *What We Do in Shadows*. **ARTS, p. 7**

SCHOLARSHIP

Shruti Sharma wins award. **NEWS, p. 11**

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WEATHER

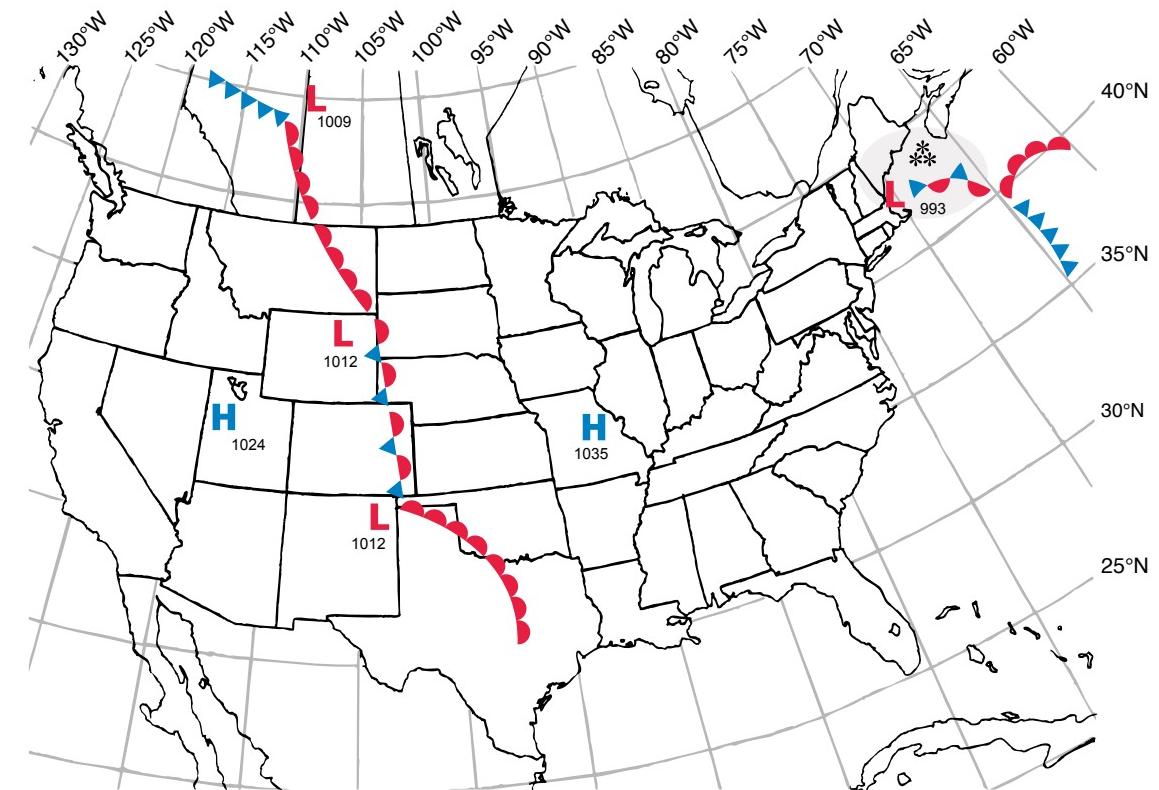
Relentless march of winter continues

By Casey Hilgenbrink
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

I don't know about the rest of *The Tech*'s readership, but this meteorologist is ready to pack up and move to Florida! So far this winter, Logan Airport has received an incredible 96.3 inches of snow (244.6 cm), 90.8 inches (230.6 cm) of which has fallen since Jan. 23. Currently, Boston is only 11.3 inches (28.7 cm) away from tying the all-time total seasonal snowfall record of 107.6 inches (273.3 cm) set in the winter of 1995-1996 - a record that could very well be broken before the end of the month. As if the historic snowfall wasn't enough, Boston has also endured near-record setting cold. So far this February, the average temperature has been a bone-chilling 18.1°F (-7.7°C), only 0.6°F (0.4°C) warmer than the all-time coldest average February temperature of 17.5°F (-8.1°C) set back in February of 1934.

If you were hoping for springtime warmth any time soon, I have bad news for you: the active pattern that has brought us so much cold and snow over the past few weeks shows no sign of abating. Today, there is a chance of snow showers through this afternoon as a low pressure system passes offshore. As the low moves up and away from our region, strong northwest winds will usher in bitterly cold Arctic air tonight and tomorrow. Bundle up, because wind chills tomorrow morning will approach -20°F (-29°C).

Looking toward the weekend, a long-duration mixed precipitation event looks likely Saturday night into Sunday. Should the storm take a more westerly track, Boston would be in a region of relatively warm southerly winds, which would make for a rainier event, followed by a shot of cold air early next week. If the storm were to take a more easterly, colder track, Boston would experience snow followed by a period of freezing rain. Whatever the outcome, one thing is for certain — Old Man Winter is not done with us yet!



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, February 19, 2015

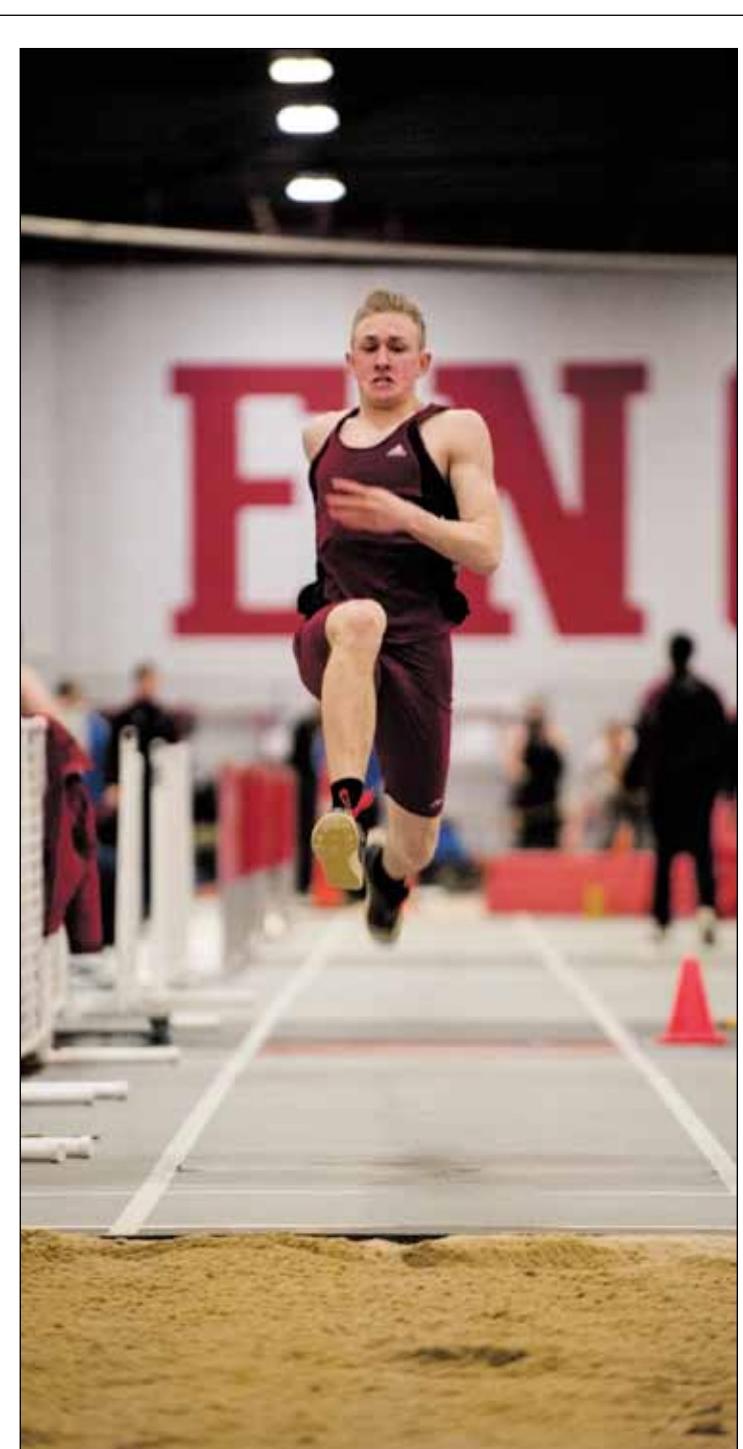
Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	 Trough		 Fog
L Low Pressure	 Warm Front	 Snow  Rain	 Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	 Cold Front	 Showers  Light	 Haze
	 Stationary Front	 Moderate  Heavy	Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Extended Forecast

Today: A chance of snow showers, with a high of 27°F (-3°C). Winds from the west at 10-15 mph.
Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low of around 1°F (-17°C). Winds from the west at 15-20 mph with gusts up to 30 mph.
Tomorrow: Partly sunny, with a high of around 16°F (-9°C). Winds from the west at 10-15 mph, with gusts up to 30 mph.
Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high in the upper 20s°F (-3°C).
Sunday: Overcast, with a high in the upper 30s°F (4°C). Snow followed by a period of freezing rain likely.



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DANIEL MIRNY—THE TECH

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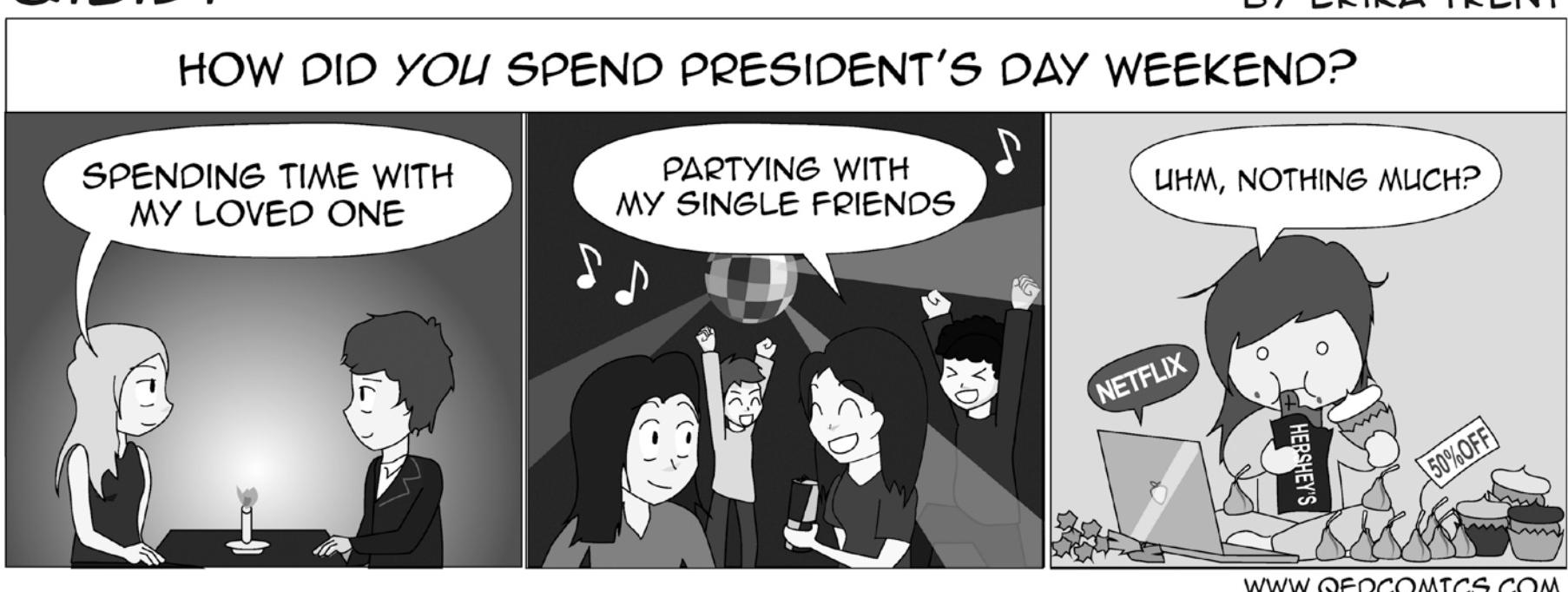
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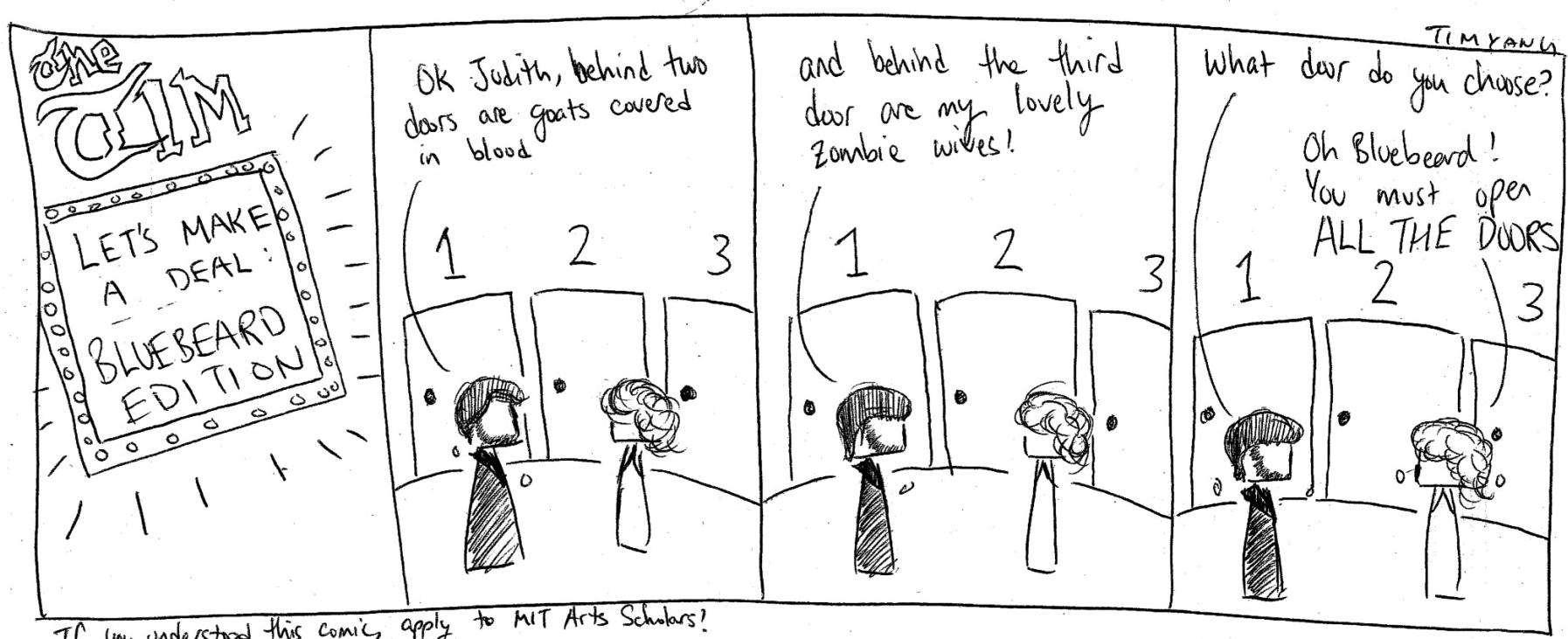
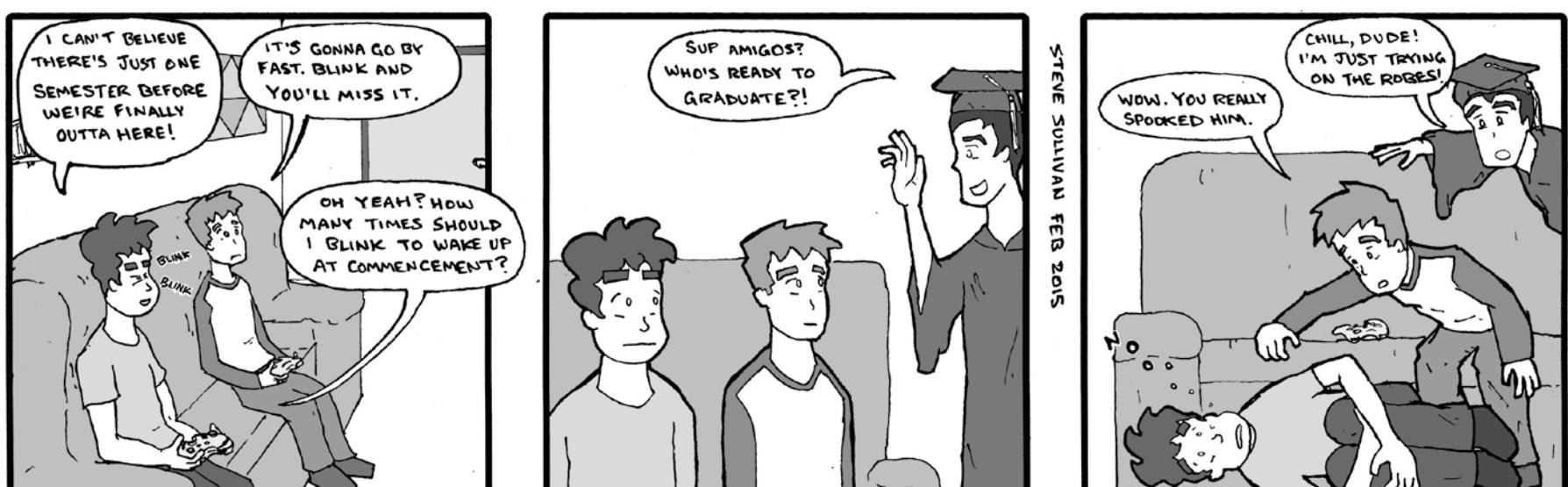
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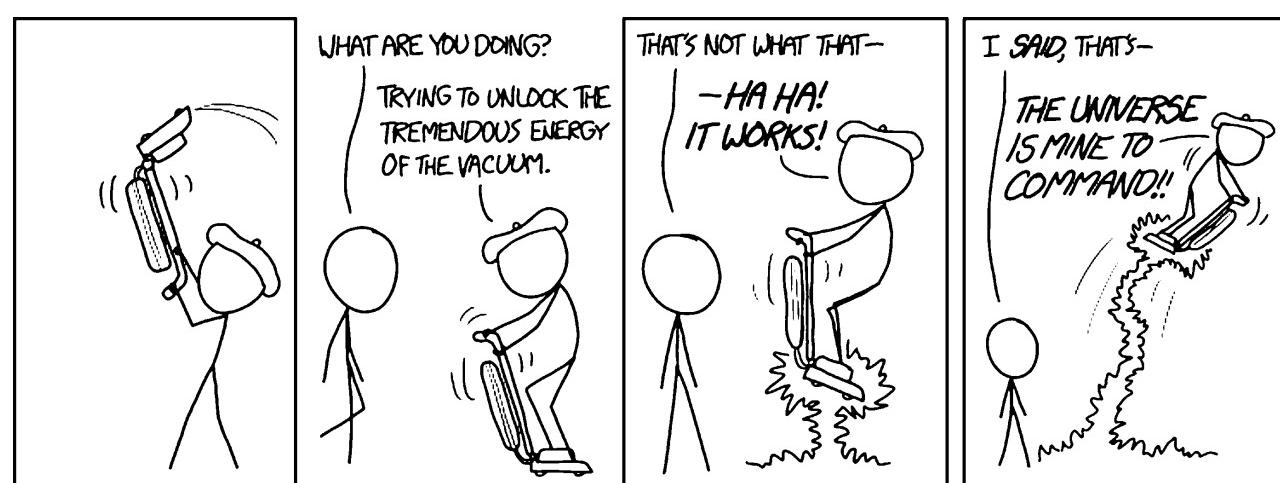
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UPPERCUT by Steve Sullivan

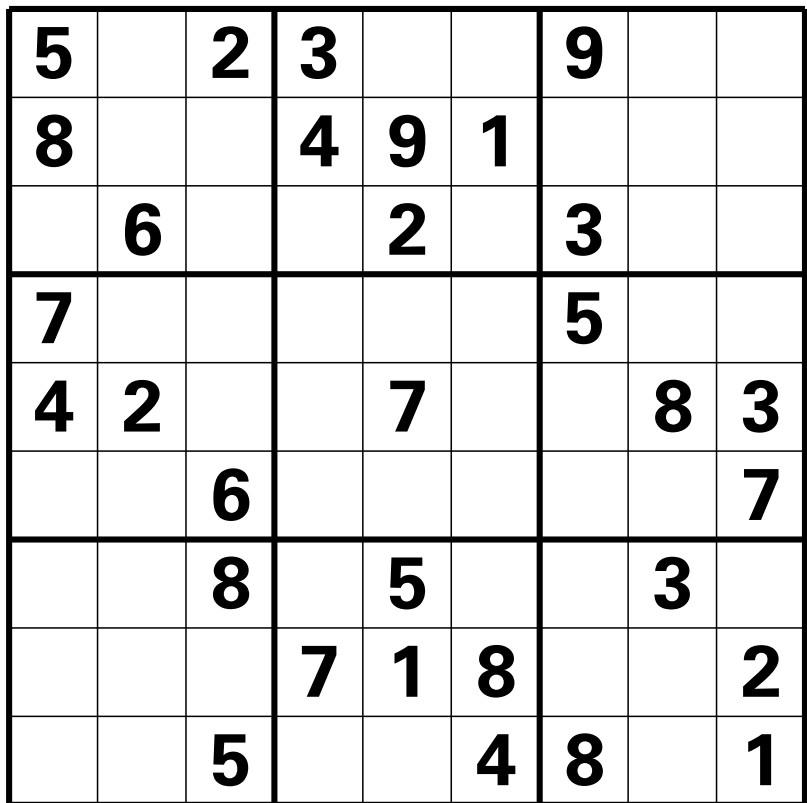


[1486] Vacuum



Stormy Sudoku

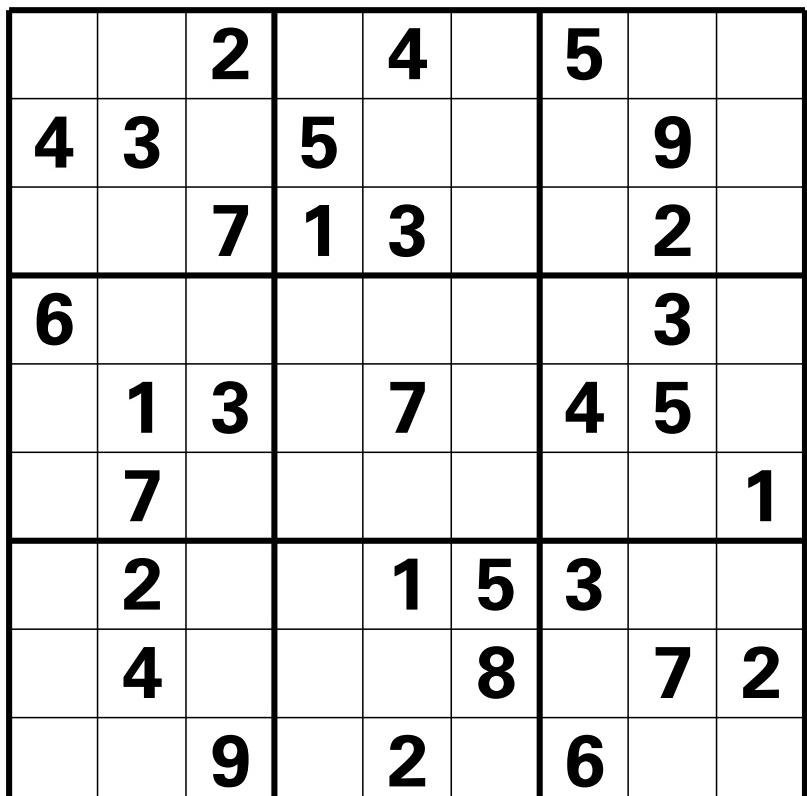
Solution, page 14



Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Snowy Sudoku

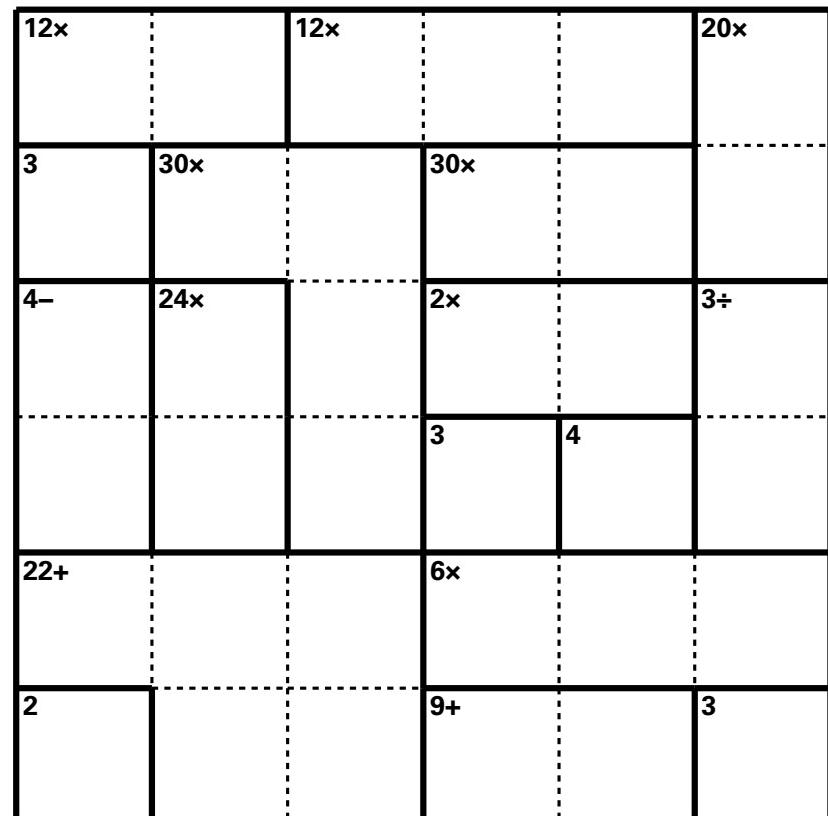
Solution, page 14



Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Tamed Techdoku

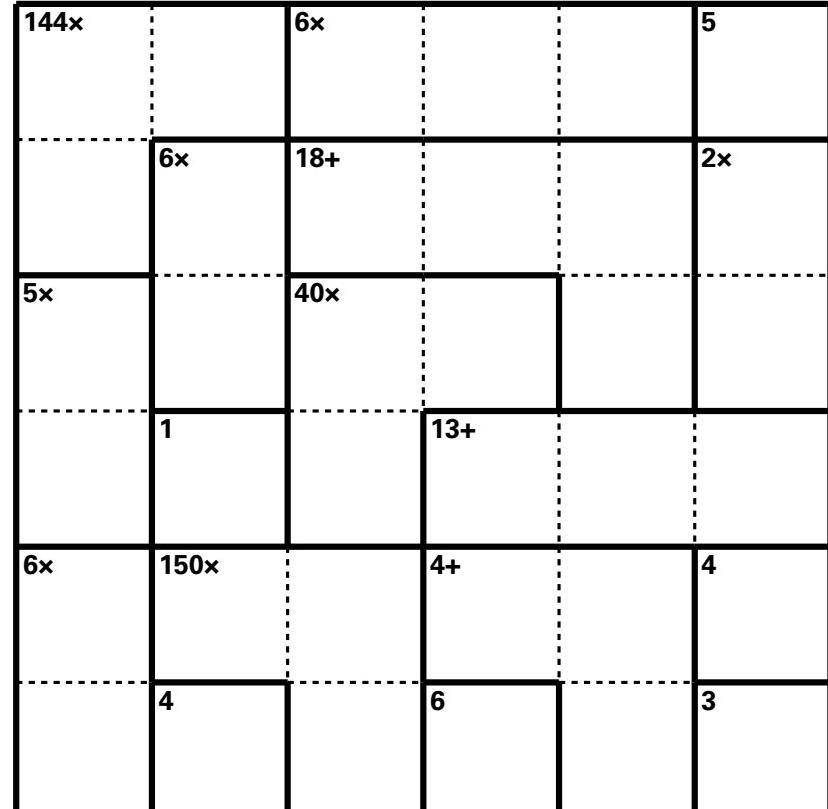
Solution, page 14



Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

Tasty Techdoku

Solution, page 14



Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

The Three Beers

by Fred Piscop

Solution, page 14

ACROSS

- 1 ___ yet (so far)
- 5 In-box fillers
- 10 High wind
- 14 Nautilus skipper
- 15 “___ at the office”
- 16 Tinted
- 17 Term of affection
- 18 One without roots
- 19 Upper hand
- 20 Pro team’s amateur pick
- 23 Wray of King Kong
- 24 Lab-maze runner
- 25 Edgar who painted
dancers
- 28 Judo equipment
- 31 McDowell of Planet of the
Apes
- 35 Rescue op
- 36 Deere’s Illinois home
- 38 Regret
- 39 Causes of an outburst,
perhaps
- 42 President after Harry
- 43 Prime-time ender

44 Prime-time hour

45 Auto named for a physicist

47 Took charge

48 South America’s “spine”

49 Actress Mendes

51 High ___ kite

52 Sitcom sound effect

60 Poet of old Rome

61 Shrugger’s comment

62 It’s east of Nevada

64 Source of salt

65 Have leftovers, perhaps

66 Relay or marathon

67 Scent

68 In need of cleaning

69 Moose relatives

DOWN

- 1 “So . . .?”
- 2 Watermelon bit
- 3 WWII general Bradley
- 4 In truth
- 5 Tasting like much
mouthwash
- 6 Swelled heads

7 Title Auntie of the stage

8 Model-train track shape

9 Passover meal

10 Urban renewal target

11 German auto

12 Building-block brand

13 Idyllic spot

21 Scale notes

22 Insertion mark

25 Ledger entry in red

26 Conjure up

27 Bill of Microsoft

28 Runway walker

29 Tylenol alternative

30 Against the clock

32 iPhone rival

33 Novelist Dominick

34 All those in favor

36 Blanc who voiced Bugs

37 Persona ___ grata

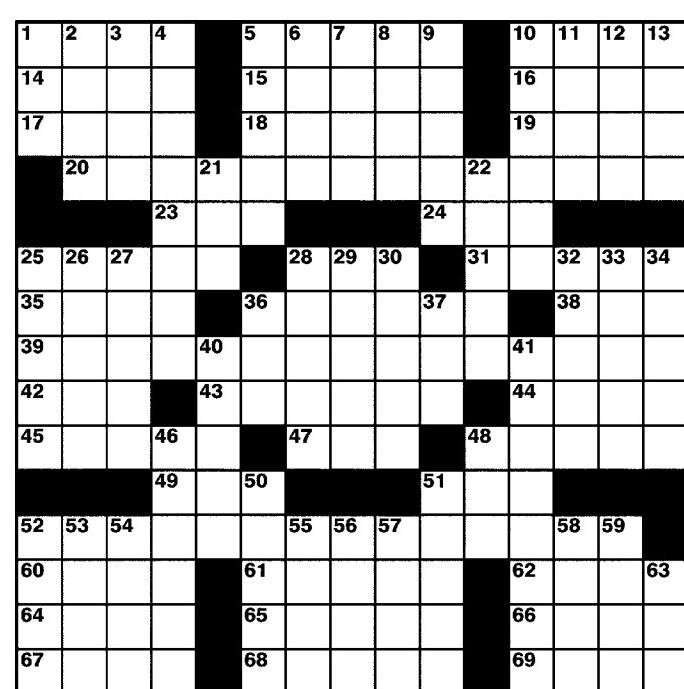
40 Make one’s exit

41 Opposite of “artificially”

46 Mortgage source

48 Hearth residue

50 Threw in



Human Capital: The Price of Greed

This award-winning film is not your average mystery movie.

By Karleigh Moore
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

Human Capital is an Italian drama with an air of mystery. The film revolves around two families of very different social statuses as their lives are thrown together and torn apart by a single tragic accident. While the film certainly has the thrill and suspense of a whodunit mystery, make no mistake: this film is a socio-economic commentary through and through.

The nonlinear format of the movie is immediately intriguing. The narrative is divided into three distinct, yet intersecting chapters, each focusing on a specific character's point of view. Each of the three chapters switches between past, present, and future events though it is always clear which we are viewing. Furthermore, the three storylines interweave as the characters interact. This is a particular strength of this narrative technique as we are able to view the same group of important events through the lenses of three separate characters. Through the eyes of Dino (Fabrizio Bentivoglio), Carla (Valeria Bruni Tedeschi), and Serena (Matilde Gioli), the viewer discovers the finer details of the dynamics between characters and each of their roles in the overall scheme of the film.

The commentary on class is introduced in the first five minutes of the film. The first character we see is a hardworking laborer clearing dirty dishes after a party. The evening takes a devastating turn for the man as he bikes home from work and is run over by an SUV. The connection between this horrible event and the narratives of the three characters is revealed as the plot unfolds. Interwoven throughout this whodunit is a story of loves and hopes both gained and lost and strong themes of familial discord — experiences that seem to transcend social and economic boundaries.

The first chapter of the film introduces us to Dino Osso-la, a middle class real estate agent with clear aspirations for wealth and power. The film does an excellent job of showing rather than telling: Dino's get-rich-quick plan dawns on us just as it dawns upon him. Dino's daughter, Serena, is dating Massimiliano — the son of a powerful hedge fund investor, Giovanni Bernaschi. Dino meets Giovanni as he is dropping Serena off at the Bernaschi residence, and as fate would have it, Giovanni is in need of a tennis partner. Inspired by their powerhouse teamwork on the tennis court, Dino and Giovanni strike a deal: Dino is invited to buy into the infamous Bernaschi fund, which promises 40 percent returns, granted that Dino can provide the minimum share.



COURTESY OF FILM MOVEMENT LLC

Fabrizio Bentivoglio as Dino Ossola and Fabrizio Gifuni as Giovanni Bernaschi in *Human Capital*.

price: 500,000 euros

from the critically injured cyclist. Unfortunately for the police, it isn't clear who was driving that night. They would like to pin the accident on a drunken Massimiliano but Serena insists that she drove him home that night and that someone else drove his SUV.

Dino discovers an email between his daughter and Luca and he believes he has found the truth of the night's events, a truth in which Massimiliano is innocent. Dino has no moral qualms about selling the information to the Bernaschis, who are eager to clear their son's name. Dino retained only 10 percent of his investment and is at risk of losing his home and the respect of his family. Carla is as desperate for her son's innocence as Dino is to recover his initial investment along with the returns he was promised. They strike a deal and the consequences are dire.

It almost doesn't matter who is guilty. If Massimiliano is at fault, he will be arrested for killing a man while driving drunk, but surely his incredibly wealthy parents will find a way to keep him out of court. If, on the other hand, Luca is guilty, as a poor and ostracized orphan with a rap sheet (deserved or not), he doesn't stand a chance. We know that Massimiliano and Luca both have troubled family lives, but Massimiliano is unlikable and abusive to Serena while Luca is wrongfully accused of a drug crime and is Serena's most trustworthy friend. The bottom line is that it doesn't matter how good of a person you are, if your status in society is not up to par: the odds are always against you.

Human Capital is a masterfully crafted commentary on the ways that social class influences people's goals, actions, and regard for others. Is having everything money can buy worth living an unfulfilling life? How far should one be willing to go to climb the social ladder? The film raises these questions and more, but the message is clear: the price of greed is paid in human capital.

Human Capital

Directed by Paolo Virzì

Starring: Fabrizio Bentivoglio, Matilde Gioli, and Valeria Bruni Tedeschi

Based on novel Human Capital by Stephen Amidon

Not Rated

In theaters starting Feb. 13 (exclusively at Kendall Square Cinema)

Tech's MLE

By The Tech Sports staff

ain the MLB Postseason. In the American Division Series against Minnesota with their opponents, the Texas Rangers, record 5 against the Tampa Bay. In the National League, the Philadelphia Phillies swept the Atlanta Braves in which every game will claim their league pennant and the National League's best staff weigh in, with department bragging rights.

Can you find the typo? (Answer is below)

***The Tech* is looking for copy editors!**

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No matter in the second line of the second paragraph should be "No matter".



INDIE FIX

What We Do In The Shadows: Twilight meets The Real World (in a good way)

A Kickstarter-funded vampire mockumentary that'll keep you laughing

COURTESY OF PALADIN FILMS

Taika Waititi stars as Viago, 317 year old vampire, in *What We Do In The Shadows*.

By Karleigh Moore
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

I don't generally go out of my way to see comedy flicks, but having grown up through an age of reality television and teenage vampire romances, I couldn't resist. You know a movie is going to be interesting when "hipster vampire" appears in the description. But fear not: "Each crew member wore a crucifix and was granted protection by the subjects of the film," so no humans were harmed in the making of this documentary, well, except for each course of dinner guests.

What We Do In The Shadows is a mockumentary set in Wellington, New Zealand. A documentary crew captures the daily lives (and antics) of vampires living in an apartment together as they gear up for an annual supernatural ball. The effects are cheesy, but that only adds to the sketch comedy nature of each scene. There is no clear plotline, but what drives the movie is the excellent chemistry between the vampire flatmates: Viago (Taika Waititi), Deacon (Jonathan Brugh), Vlad (Jemaine Clement), Petyr (Ben Fransham), and later, Nick (Cori Gonzalez-Macuer) and their human friend Stu (Stuart Rutherford). Viago and Vlad chide Deacon for having neglected his dishwashing duties for five years and Petyr for not clearing away the

skeletons of his victims. Apparently typical flatmate issues arise even among vampires. Petyr is over 8,000 years old, so he prefers to stay at home while the rest of the crew explores Wellington's nightlife. This is difficult of course because vampires cannot enter a building unless they are invited, and since they tend to wear 18th-century attire, bouncers often turn them away.

What We Do In The Shadows is a clear statement about the current vampire media landscape — it is completely absurd. According to the Kickstarter project page, the directors want to set the record straight for vampires: in a modern world, a vampire's life is not a teenage fantasy romance. They would have a hard time integrating into society, and for them, there is no happy ending. The flatmates obviously struggle to keep up with the times: they dress in outdated clothing and express disbelief when Stu introduces them to cellphones, Google, and eBay (where they can do their dark bidding).

As I've mentioned previously in this column, finding funding for indie films is hard. In my interview with John Lyons Murphy (producer of *Broken Kingdom* and *Kingdom Come*), he mentioned the potential of crowdfunding in the indie film industry. This is certainly apparent in the production of *What We Do In The Shadows* as the film was crowdfunded on Kickstarter — the proposal enticing the masses to contribute nearly \$50,000 more than their goal

EXHIBIT REVIEW

Drawing Apart

Blurring the line between observation and perception

By Ray Wang

Reykjavík artist Katrín Sigurdardóttir's exhibit on display at the MIT List Visual Arts Center, entitled *Drawing Apart*, is powerful and agitating, a true treat for MIT's artistic community.

The opening reception for Sigurdardóttir's two exhibits was held last Thursday night, with the veteran artist herself in attendance.

Sigurdardóttir's first exhibit, *Ellefu*, is an abstraction of her childhood home. Eleven miniatures, ranging up to a few feet in height, are widely spaced and scattered on the stone floor of the gallery. "Balcony" (2011), "Bedroom, Study" (2015), "Stairway, Hallway" (2012) — they're all just simple white plaster on frames of basswood, constructed with ex-

quisite detail. You'd almost think it's architecture, not sculpture. But the exhibit as a whole evokes a ghostly sensation of memory and nostalgia, and you might, for a moment, cross the line between observation and perception, between vision and experience. The anonymity of each piece contributes to the conceptual nature of the work. Each sculpture is nondescript, making each fragment almost float in your consciousness.

More haunting is the artist's second exhibit, *Unbuilt Residences in Reykjavík*, (1925-1930). Sigurðardóttir takes nearly century-old unrealized house plans from city archives and constructs miniature models with various materials like lacquered concrete, papier-mâché, and wood. She then destroys them by fire or the force of gravity, and reconstructs the

remains over a fragile wooden frame. Of "Unbuilt 6 — Dentist Hallur Hallsson Residence," there's almost nothing left: a few ragged, ash-en pieces of burnt paper, the survivors, cover patches of the intricate frame. The destruction and decay is fascinating and disturbing, evoking unease in every observer.

Sigurdardóttir is no newcomer to these architectural and cartographic works of art. A native of Reykjavík, she's had solo exhibits at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia as well as permanent large-scale works at The Reykjavík Art Museum. She plays with your perception of scale and form, combining the symmetry of conventional architecture and her characteristic jagged style. Occasionally her large-scale works will incorporate

the viewers, who, upon interacting with the sculpture, become part of the object on view.

Drawing Apart is on display at the List Center until April 12, and Sigurdardóttir's next solo exhibition will be at the Parasol Unit Foundation for Contemporary Art in London.

★★★★★

Drawing Apart

Katrín Sigurdardóttir

MIT List Visual Arts Center

On display until April 12

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VIVIAN HU—THE TECH

Tuesday's snowfall left a fresh layer of snow on *The Hexagons*, a sculpture outside of Building 18. The flurry was the latest addition to what is now Boston's third snowiest winter on record.



VIVIAN HU—THE TECH

Students climb what has affectionately been called "Mount Simmons" on Tuesday. Later that evening, trucks and construction vehicles began scooping snow away from the base of the pile.

TO REACH US

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. Email is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to general@tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. You can

reach the editor in chief by emailing eic@tech.mit.edu. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to news@tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@tech.mit.edu. *The Tech* can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://tech.mit.edu>.



Will W. Jack '17 and Iris Fung '17 present the seal shank of the 2017 Brass Rat during Friday's Premiere.

DANIEL MIRNY—THE TECH

Class of 2017 comes together to view new Brass Rat design

New security procedures set for this year's premiere

Ring Premiere, from Page 1

hol and shouting when the designs were revealed. The members from previous years' Ring Committees that did attend this year were seated in the audience, but in an area isolated from the '17s. In an email to The Tech, Ring Committee Chair Anthony J. Occidentale '17 said that he still received "comments from my classmates about how the past committees were 'rude' and 'obnoxious' and 'shouldn't have been there.'"

The commencement of Ring Premiere was met with thunderous applause and incomprehensible chants from the audience. Members of the Ring Committee proceeded to explain the details of the ring design. Following tradition, the ring contained many hidden details that are symbolic to the Class of 2017.

The Boston and Cambridge skylines appear on the ring; the Cambridge skyline even includes an outline of the roller coaster built by East Campus in their courtyard this past REX. Also, the traditional "Hacker's Map" inscribed on the inside of the ring, showing the underground interconnectivity of the buildings, uniquely omits Building 12 due to the ongoing construction of the MIT.nano Building.

The MIT seal is also customized, including flames from the lamp in the shape of the number 17. The replacement of the traditional male mason by a craftswoman received applause.

On the class shank, there is a bitcoin commemorating the \$100 in bitcoins that we all had the opportunity to receive last semester, as well as a security camera positioned next to the great dome, representing the enhanced security measures in dormitories these couple of years.

The Ring Committee went on to reveal a bezel design including a participant in the ALS Bucket Challenge, which went viral over the summer, as well as a beaver riding a tank. These ridiculous additions to the bezel made it clear that this design was a joke.

The real bezel design features a beaver, as per tradition, with the Charles River, Boston, and MIT in the background. Etched subtly into the beaver's tale are the letters IHTFP, which the audience showed its approval of with cheers and laughter. The roof of Kresge auditorium is designed to look like a football to commemorate the historic success of MIT's football team this past season. The bezel features other iconic symbols such as the Prudential Center, the Citgo sign and Fenway

Park, a Tech Dinghy, and the great dome.

Between descriptions of each face of the ring, members of the Ring Committee raffled off subsidies ranging from \$50 to \$100. Recipients went up to the stage, some leaping onto it after running up the aisle, to receive their subsidy.

Next, the members of the ring committee revealed the details of this year's ring delivery, which will be held at the Institute of Contemporary Art on April 22.

Before the ceremony ended, the members of the Ring Committee raffled off a subsidy for a free ring; the first ticket-holder that they called was apparently no longer present at the ceremony, so they had to call out another ticket number.

After the ceremony ended, we rushed to grab bags containing t-shirts and shot glasses on our way out of Kresge. According to Occidentale, 540 rings were sold the next day, and over 1,100 students had bought rings by the following Wednesday.

The newly revealed class ring has been a frequent conversation topic among my fellow '17s in the days following premiere, as many students anticipate ring delivery, where they will receive their very own Brass Rats.

2017 rat



The side of the ring showing the MIT seal is sophisticated yet minimal, recognizable by admirers around the world. Engraved on this side of the ring is a nontraditional interpretation of the MIT seal: a craftswoman at the anvil, and a scholar with a book. These images reflect the modern face of MIT, while also personifying our motto, "Mens et Manus." Looking closely between them, one will notice that from the lamp, on the foundation of "The Science and the Arts," a flame burns bright with a 17.

The Boston skyline is displayed during the day with silhouettes of the John Hancock Tower, 111 Huntington Avenue, the Prudential Tower, Back Bay brownstones and the familiar Citgo sign. A swimmer's figure cuts through the water to commemorate the Charles River being declared swimmable our freshman year. Engraved on the right is a crew shell to honor the 50th Head of the Charles Regatta and to remind us that the vitality of teamwork in crew is also ubiquitous at MIT.

The 2017's beaver serves as the centerpiece of the bezel, while the Cambridge skyline takes up a majority of the landscape space, creating a Brass Rat unlike any before. Our beaver holds two items in its hands and has our unofficial motto, "IHTFP" hidden within its tail. In the beaver's right hand is a telescope, a finely engineered instrument often used to discover new things; a value that lies at the core of the MIT experience. This item transforms into a diploma, a representation of our promise to carry the MIT values with us long after graduation. In its left hand, a pocket watch can be found with its hands at 1:50, signifying the Class of 2017 is the 150th to graduate from MIT. Bezel Design The pocket watch also reminds us that MIT teaches us to manage our time wisely, as we are sure to run into trouble trying to balancing time with endeavors, as represented by the beaver splitting the use of its resourceful paws between the two items.

*Make your own
2017 rat!*

CUT ON THE DOTTED LINES.
FOLD ON THE SOLID LINES

The Cambridge skyline is depicted under a dark night sky to represent our various nightworks. The skyline includes several prominent buildings: Kresge Auditorium, the Maclaurin buildings, the Ray and Maria Stata Center, the Green Building, and the Media Lab. Also depicted is a roller coaster in the East Campus courtyard, which triumphantly returned during our sophomore year during orientation.

The class shank centers on the Great Dome with our class year, 2017, embazoned above. The numerals atop the dome read MCMXVI, the year the Cambridge campus was founded. The five steps leading from Killian Court up to Building 10 represent the five schools of the Institute: architecture and planning, engineering, management, the humanities, arts, and social sciences, and science. One of the doors to Lobby 10 have been left open to remind us of the welcoming of open discourse at MIT.



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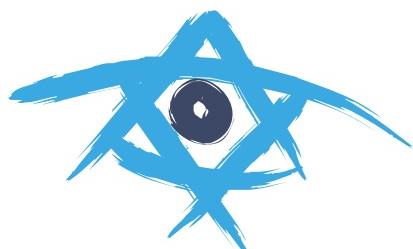
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Officials address need for diversity

Head of committee for equity says diversity is necessary for a true meritocracy at the Institute

Diversity, from Page 1

sees the diversity summit as promoting a more efficient Institute. Joshua Gonzalez, Simmons Hall's area director, said that to study the world, as we aim to do at MIT, we have to understand it. By encouraging more perspectives, problems can be solved more effectively.

"Social scientists at MIT show that teams perform better when diverse, [and] the same has been seen in companies," said Bertschinger. He noted that in the 1990s, there were very few female faculty at MIT, and there were significantly fewer women in engineering-focused departments. Those who were employed at MIT were underpaid and undervalued.

Now, MIT's gender payment gap is far smaller, and in 2011 at MIT's 150th anniversary celebration, a symposium celebrating MIT's gender equality history featured a panel of women in STEM that, according to Bertschinger, featured a "who's who of scientists and engineers."

Bertschinger's colleagues said that all of MIT stands to gain from paying attention to social justice and collectivism. Bertschinger considers the idea of meritocracy to be an ideal that "we'll always be striving toward," and cited a study by Sloan professor Emilio Castilla that showed that when an organization considers itself a meritocracy, it is less aware of its biases.

Castilla found that in such organizations, managers inadvertently make biased assumptions and "typically favor men over women." Because they believe they are part of a meritocracy, these managers may forget to be cognizant of those biases.

UA President wins Gates Cambridge Scholarship

For Shruti Sharma '15, whose exploits include leading landmine-clearing initiatives in Venezuela and developing prosthetics, winning the Gates Cambridge Scholarship is an opportunity to continue her pursuit of improving the lives of those with disabilities through advancements in materials science and medical devices.

The scholarship, which factors candidates' commitments to "greater good" in their selection, will cover tuition, costs, and a stipend for Sharma to pursue a doctoral degree at the Cavendish Laboratories' Centre for Nanoscience at Cambridge University.

Working at the laboratories — which have programs that align with her interests in prosthetics, materials science, and 3D printing — has been a lifelong dream for Sharma. "The fabrication, the customizability of it ... it's definitely something I want to pursue and spend my career in," she said. The scholarship will allow her to do just that, without having to pay a tuition of over 20,000 pounds.

A materials science and engineering major, Sharma has spent much of her time in college performing research

—Bruno B. F. Faviero

MIT Black Students' Union Presents:



February 21st, 6pm @ Kresge Auditorium

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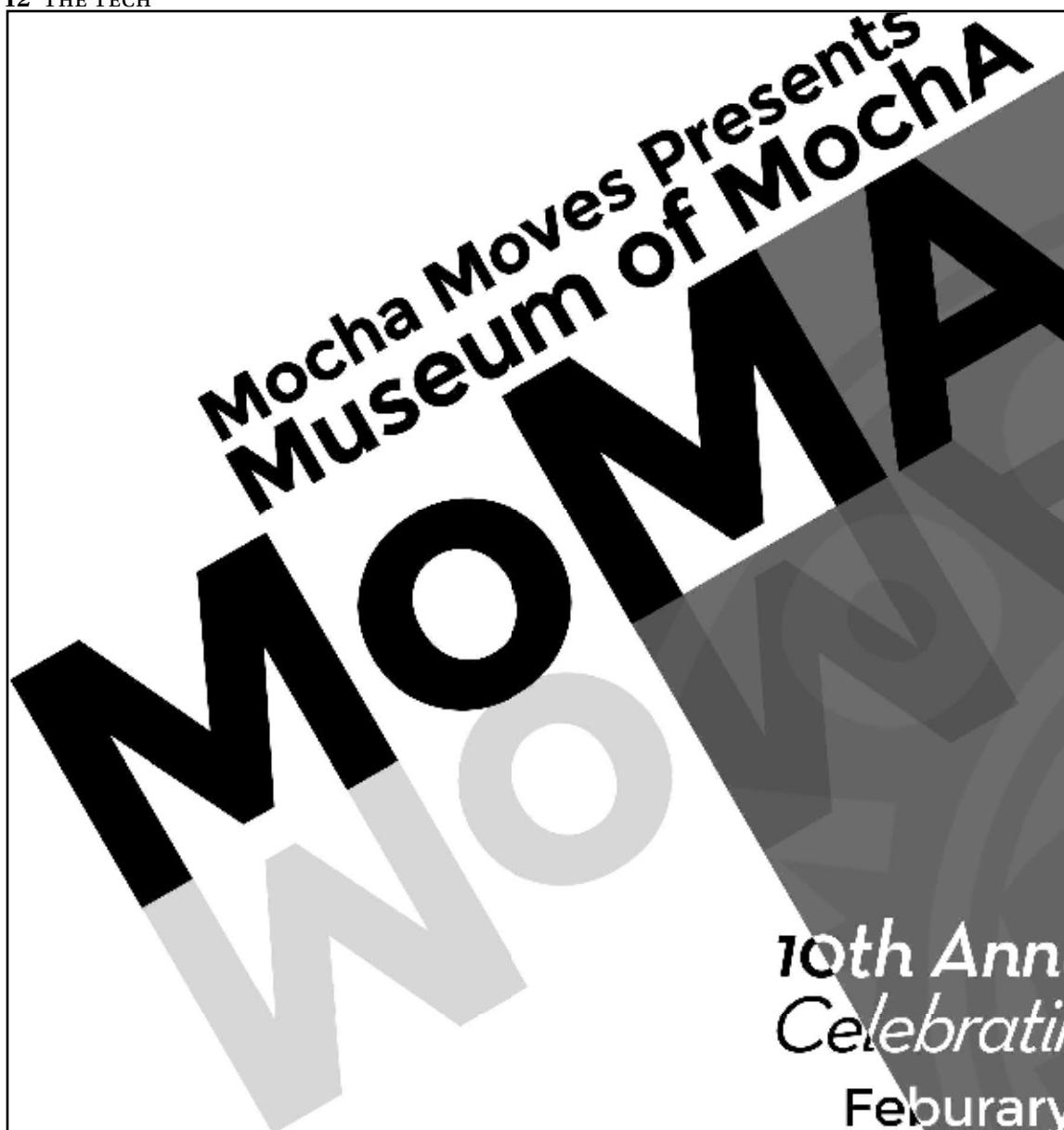
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Was MIT at fault in student's suicide? Jury to decide case

At issue is Han Nguyen's employee status at MIT; judge is uncertain

Trial, from Page 1

defendants argued that the suicide should fall under the Workers' Compensation Act (WCA).

The WCA "bars common law actions against employers" when an employee is injured due to their job. The defendants said that if Dzung Nguyen's claims were true and Han Nguyen did kill himself because of MIT's negligence and Wernerfelt's phone call, his suicide was a personal injury caused by his employment and the WCA protected them from this lawsuit.

The defendants recommended Dzung Nguyen simply claim the monetary compensations called for by the WCA instead of pursuing "an amount that the [jury] deems fair and just, plus costs, interest and the reasonable funeral and burial expenses incurred" as demanded in the original filing.

Dzung Nguyen argued the opposite. He and his lawyer, Jeffrey Beeler, presented several reasons why Han Nguyen's death does not fit the scenarios illustrated by the WCA. They pointed out that in the past, MIT had argued that graduate students of any private institution were not employees, citing a past case that found that Brown University graduate students were not employees and thus could not unionize.

Although the defendants argued

that Han Nguyen's summer funding didn't come from his financial aid and thus could be considered a wage, Dzung Nguyen and Beeler responded that the Brown University case decided research funding isn't a wage, regardless of where it comes from, because graduate research and teaching aren't a service to the university, but rather an opportunity for graduate students to learn.

Dzung Nguyen further argued that because Han Nguyen's conversation was with Wernerfelt and not with Hedden, his suicide didn't result from his summer position.

This year Judge Henry said that these issues — including that of whether Han Nguyen was an MIT employee — were uncertain or unclear, and granted Dzung Nguyen's request to "refuse to let MIT have it both ways," recommending that the trial continue in front of a jury.

Along with MIT and Wernerfelt, Dzung Nguyen sued Sloan professor Drezen Prelec and MIT Student Support Services Dean David W. Randall. The original court filing indicated that they and several others, including psychiatrists at Massachusetts General Hospital, had prior concerns about Han Nguyen's mental health. Dzung Nguyen argued that while they had tried to help him and be accommodating, their actions that immediately preceded his death were negligent and punitive.

Kendall Hip, not Square.

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Two dorm house managers depart from Institute

Next House's Jason Doucette praised by residents; MIT begins replacement process

Managers, from Page 1

ing Next Haunt, Next Act, and Next Big Thing. He found Doucette to be "really chill" and responsive whenever they needed help with the facilities.

Antonio Moreno '15, another Next resident, remembers once mentioning to Doucette that the bathrooms didn't have trashcans. Three days later, there was a trashcan in every bathroom.

"He was very helpful and personable," Moreno wrote in an email to *The Tech*. "In our opinion, he was a great house manager."

Students were surprised to hear that Doucette would not be returning after his unexplained leave. They received the news at the same time as their housemas-

ter and area director, according to Moreno.

To cover the house manager roles in Next and Random, MIT has chosen other dorms' house managers to fill in. Nika Hollingsworth from Simmons Hall is helping cover Next, and Jon Nolan, who currently splits his time between Baker and McCormick, is adding Random to his list.

When choosing interim house managers, MIT administrators have to consider several factors, including the buildings' sizes, their locations relative to the manager's current house, and the "professional development opportunities" for the managers, according to Peter Cummings, director for administration in the Division of Student Life.

Simmons and Next, for example, are dorms in good condition with mostly routine issues to handle. "They just kind of hum along," Cummings said. "We think Nika [Hollingsworth] is in a great position to take this on and do a real bang of a job of it."

Whenever a house manager needs to be replaced, Dan Roderick, director of MIT housing, leads the search for a new one. Along with Dean Henry J. Humphreys from the Division of Student Life, Roderick evaluates the feedback from the housemaster and staff to see if a full-time replacement is needed. At some point, input from the students in the dorm is considered as well, according to Cummings.

It's unclear if Next or Random

will receive new house managers or keep their interim ones instead.

In the past, house managers have not always been replaced with new hires. McCormick, for example, used to have their own manager until they switched to Nolan, who was already manager of several other dorms.

Nolan has stuck with McCormick and is now the interim house manager for Random as well. He's expected to continue until at least this June.

Nolan has experience covering multiple dorms. In the past, he was house manager for four buildings. "He was able to handle the multiple buildings just because of who he was," said Cummings.

"We don't know if that's going to be the case here," said Cum-

nings, suggesting that the current situation is unique. Next House is a larger dorm with its own dining hall, and possibly too big to be "co-handled" with its almost 350 residents. Random, on the other hand, has only 93 residents.

Cummings emphasized, however, that it is too early to speculate. Roderick and others first have to collect feedback on the current situation.

The one thing that Moreno and Chin made clear, though, is that Next students hope MIT considers a full-time manager for what they believe is a large dorm.

"I don't think having a shared approach would be beneficial for either our dorm or the other dorm," said Moreno. "We definitely need a full-time manager."

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Solution to Tamed

from page 5

4	3	2	6	1	5
3	2	1	5	6	4
5	4	3	1	2	6
1	6	5	3	4	2
6	5	4	2	3	1
2	1	6	4	5	3

Solution to Crossword

from page 5

A	S	O	F	M	E	M	O	S	G	A	L	E
N	E	M	O	I	G	A	V	E	H	U	E	D
D	E	A	R	N	O	M	A	D	E	J	E	G
D	R	A	F	T	S	E	L	E	C	T	I	O
F	A	Y		R	A	T						
D	E	G	A	S	M	A	T		R	O	D	Y
E	V	A	C	M	O	L	I	N	E	R	U	E
B	O	T	T	L	E	D	E	M	O	T	I	N
I	K	E	L	E	V	E	N	N	I	N	E	N
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M	I	N	E		E	A	T	I	N	R	A	C
O	D	R			D	U	S	T	Y	E	L	K

Solution to Stormy

from page 5

5	1	2	3	8	6	9	7	4
8	3	7	4	9	1	2	6	5
9	6	4	5	2	7	3	1	8
7	8	1	2	6	3	5	4	9
4	2	9	1	7	5	6	8	3
3	5	6	8	4	9	1	2	7
1	4	8	9	5	2	7	3	6
6	9	3	7	1	8	4	5	2
2	7	5	6	3	4	8	9	1

Solution to Snowy

from page 5

8	9	2	6	4	7	5	1	3
4	3	1	5	8	2	7	9	6
5	6	7	1	3	9	8	2	4
6	5	4	8	9	1	2	3	7
9	1	3	2	7	6	4	5	8
2	7	8	3	5	4	9	6	1
7	2	6	4	1	5	3	8	9
3	4	5	9	6	8	1	7	2
1	8	9	7	2	3	6	4	5

Solution to Tasty

from page 5

4	6	1	2	3	5
6	2	3	4	5	1
1	3	4	5	6	2
5	1	2	3	4	6
3	5	6	1	2	4
2	4	5	6	1	3

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Mon. 2/26, 1pm - 6pm
Mon. 2/27, 1pm - 6pm

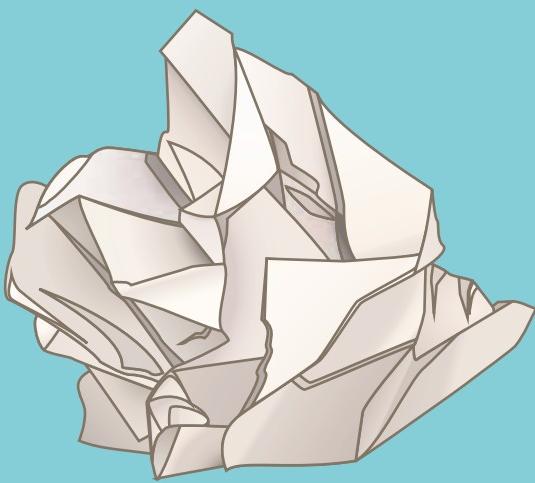
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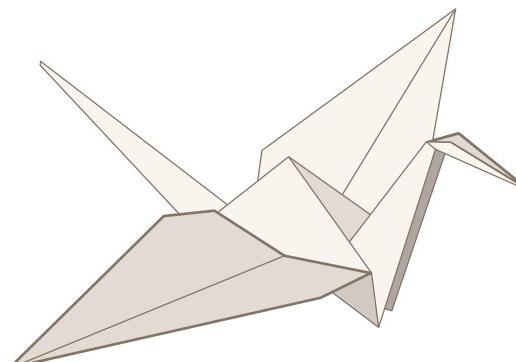
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(Python)--L1--Top-----

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